(b) whether Government plan to issue separate licences and regulate them by a separate Accrediation Authority;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any legislation is proposed to control these centres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Indian Council of Medical Research along with National academy of medical sciences has drafted a "National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and regulation of Assisted Reproduce Technologies (ART) Clines in India" on the request of the Government of India. These draft guidelines have been released for public debate. The guidelines address issues of informed decision-making, including information-giving and consent, counselling, research on embryos, storage of gametes and embryos, record keeping, prohibited and unacceptable practices, accreditation and approval process for research, research dissemination of results and the role of Institutional ethics Committees, complaints and appeals on legal, ethical and conscientious objection.

(b) to (c) based on the responses received from he Exports and civil society to the draft guidelines, Government will consider the need for instituting appropriate legal and administrative mechanisms to regulate ART services in the country.

Development of artificial skin from the membrane of fish

†1242. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the scientists of Kochi have claimed developing an artificial skin from the membrane of fish which can be used to heal the wounds of burn patients and also for the teeth related diseases; and

(b) if so, Government's view in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) no such report has been received by the Government.

National Population Policy

1241. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the National Population Policy norms for population stabilization;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether all State Governments are following the policy; and

(c) if not, the action taken for violation of National Population Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government has adopted the National Population Policy (NPP) in February, 2000 which envisages certain National Socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010 for paving the way for a stable population in the country by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of suitable economic growth and social development. It provides a policy framework for advancing goals and prioritizing strategies during the next decade, to meet the reproductive and child health needs of the people of India, and to achieve net replacement levels (TFR=2.1) by 2010. The policy affirms the commitment of the Government towards stablizing population of the country by allowing its citizens to make voluntary and informed decisions about their family size.

(b) So far, State population policies have been adopted by Andhra Pradesh (1997), Rajasthan (December, 1999), Madhya Pradesh (January, 2000), Uttar Pradesh (July 2000), and Gujarat (March 2002) with state specific goals and strategies. Disincentives proposed in the State Population Policies of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are not in consonance with the principles of National Population Policy, 2000.

(c) The Department of Family Welfare does not support the policy of disincentives, as proposed in State Population Policies. Minister for Health and Family Welfare, has in his letter to Chief Ministers of all States/UTs dated 2nd August, 2002 emphasized the need for having a common conceptual framework while formulating State Population Policies and Strategies. Government of India has already constituted a 'National Level Resources Committee' with the objective of developing uniform approaches in the State Population Policies being formulated by the States.

HIV/AIDS patients in the country

1244. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the contents of US-based National Intelligence Council report relating to HIV/AIDS patients in India;